5. You urge the construction of culverts over all the drains wherever they cross the roads or important lanes. I am given to understand that there is already an adequacy of culverts. If you want any more, I would suggest your going to your Municipality, pointing out to them their responsibility in the matter. This is a duty that devolves on the Municipality and, if unaided they are unable to do it, they might ask for the help of the Government.

6. You then deal with the storage of water in the Shencotta *kulam* during the summer months. This subject too has been moved previously and you were informed that the sinking of wells is a difficult matter ; we will now try deep borings.

7. You ask for the grant of 50 cents of land out of the Taluk Cutcherry premises for the construction of the Municipal office building. As you are aware, the Government have already promised this land to the Municipality if they accept certain conditions which have been laid down. The Government are waiting to see whether these conditions will be accepted.

8. The question of water-supply in Shencotta is beset with great difficulties as the form of the surrounding country is such that it is difficult to bring down water. You suggest a reservoir. I think you will do well if you lay your suggestions before your Municipality for acceptance.

9. I have already referred to the construction of a *satram* near the railway station ; I think you have listened to the reply that I gave.

10. In the matter of the acquisition of lands near the Perumalkulam which you refer to, this has already been ordered and the Peishkar reports that action is being taken to carry out this order.

11. In the matter of sinking a well in the English school permises, I have heard nothing as yet from the Director of Public Instruction, and I must wait for his report before I give you a reply.

115. Needs of the Shencotta taluk.

MR. S. A. HARIHARAKRISHNA AIYAR (*Member, Municipal Council, Shencotta*) said that the Tank Restoration Scheme was not properly worked out. For the better working of the scheme the officers should hold conferences with the ryots, and to achieve this object, a programme of the work to be carried out should be published by the Public Works Department.

The immediate necessity for constructing bridges across the Hanumannadi at Aykudi and the river in Samburvadakarai was then pressed on the attention of the Government. The existing causeways were badly damaged by the floods and had not yet been repaired.

The road from Aykudi to Nainagaram was in a very bad condition. The amount sanctioned for the repair of the road was inadequate. The traffic along the road was also somewhat heavy. If the road was properly maintained, the economic condition of the villages of Klankad, Aykudi, etc., would improve. The want of a culvert on the road across the Urmeniazhakiyan *kal* at Balamartandapuram was keenly felt.

The maintenance grants to the Palace road in Shencotta and the road from Puliyara to Tekkumedu should be enhanced.

The village road branching from the West Car Street of Klankad should be kept in a good condition to avoid the suffering of the passengers during the rains. A lump sum provision should be made for this purpose.

There were only a few miles of metalled road in the Shencotta taluk and sufficient funds were not provided for properly maintaining village roads. The Shencotta-Samburvadakarai road was in a bad condition, particularly the section of the road to the West of Elathur. The Kampili *kal* overflowed its banks in the rains and consequently the bund adjoining the anicut on the *kal* was badly damaged by floods entailing large expenditure for its repair. A masonry protection would secure it against the recurrence of similar breaches.

In the interests of the ryots of Shencotta, the fish produce in the irrigation tanks should be leased out permanently to a body of ryots themselves.

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The poor ryots were largely affected by the breaches and damage caused to irrigation tanks and canals. Besides the loss which they sustained, they had to attend to the repairs also. In cases of damage to the tanks, etc., caused by natural agencies, the Government should undertake the repair works at their expense.

The Valiyakulam at Klankad was silted up and was not repaired for a long time past. Consequently enough water could not be stored in the tank for raising wet crop on the areas commanded by the tank in the dry months. But the tax on the lands was very heavy and required lightening.

Shencotta was suffering very badly from scarcity of water. Outbreak of epidemics was a common feature during the hot months of the year. Public wells should be sunk in all affected areas. The matter required immediate attention on the part of the Government.

The Member then urged upon the Government the necessity and practicability of opening a railway station at Anantapuram when the proposed railway between Tenkasi and Virutunagar was opened and requested the Government to press upon the S. I. R. Company the need for a station at that place.

The only District Hospital for Shencotta taluk was in Shencotta town. It was not within easy reach from the neighbouring villages. Shencotta taluk being a victim to epidemics, a dispensary at Aykudi was highly necessary. Aykudi was the centre of a group of villages and a dispensary in that village would cater the needs of the neighbouring villages.

There were only two Girls' Schools in the taluk. The villages of Aykudi, Samburvadakarai, Klankad, etc., had no Vernacular Girls' School within easy reach. The establishment of one at Aykudi was therefore highly necessary.

The people of Shencotta were not sufficiently represented in the service. The people of the locality who knew local conditions best might be appointed in the Police and the Excise Departments as Constables and Petty Officers and posted for duty in that taluk itself.

As the Shencotta taluk bordered on the British territory, there were constant disputes between the people of that taluk and of Tenkasi taluk. The dispute in regard to the definition of the term 'flood' in relation to the irrigation tanks was an instance in point. The ryots were badly neglected in settling disputes as they had no voice in determining the matter. Conferences between the officers of the two Governments should be arranged. But it would be more desirable to constitute a tribunal of judicial officers. A board for its constitution might be formed and rules regarding its working framed.

The Member pointed out that many matters on which he sought the aid of the Government could be attended to by the Municipality; but the Municipality was only a limb of the Government and its scope was also very limited.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Hariharakrishna Aiyar, in regard to your first point, the Chief Engineer says he will take up the question of the immediate and effective restoration of tanks.

2. With regard to the construction of bridges, I would refer you to my reply to Mr. Adivaraha Aiyar's representation.

3. The work of improvements to the Aykudi-Nainagaram road has already been taken in hand and is progressing.

4. The question of increasing the maintenance grants for the Shencotta Palace road and the road from Puliyara to Tekkumedu is under consideration.

5. In the matter of laying out the village road from the West Car Street of Klangad, so far as I gather from you, you want the Government to take up the work at once. I would suggest that the people do the work under the Ryots' Roads Rules.

6. You apply for the allotment of additional funds for all the village roads. These roads are merely cart tracts and foot-paths and the people should see to their improvement under the Ryots' Roads Rules. Money spent upon their maintenance would be money thrown away.

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7. The desirability of leasing out the fish produce to a body of ryots will be taken up for consideration.

8. In regard to the necessity for repairing irrigation works at Government expense, Government had passed orders in 1923 that each case will be considered on its merits.

9. The work of rapairs to Klangad Valiyakulam is already in progress.

10. Public wells are being sunk as funds become available in accordance with the programme recommended by the Sanitary Commissioner.

11. Your representation regarding the opening of a railway station at Anantapuram will be communicated to the Adviser to the Government for Railways for an expression of his views.

12. The question of opening a dispensary at Aykudi is now before the Administrative Board, Medical Services, and their recommendations will shortly be received.

13. You press for the recruitment to the Police and the Excise forces in the taluk from among the natives. I am not quite clear as to what exactly you mean. Is it that the constables and excisemen posted in the taluk should be recruited from Shencotta and Shencotta alone or that the Police Department and the Excise Department as a whole should be recruited from the taluk?

MEMBER: The former.

DEWAN: I can assure you that the people of your taluk are not being excluded. But the people of Shencotta are apparently so prosperous that the rates of pay provided for constables and excise peons are not sufficiently attractive for them to come in.

14. Your representation regarding a Girls' School at Aykudi will be borne in mind.

15. You propose the organisation of a conference of ryots of the Shencotta and Tenkasi taluks. The Government are not convinced that these Boards will serve any useful purpose. I do not agree with you in the view which you have advanced that the Municipality is a limb of the Government created *ad hoc* or lopped off after the particular service for which it exists. A Municipality is an institution in the form of local self-government and as such it must find its own ways and means for starting municipal works.

116. Needs of the Kunnattur taluk.

MR. P. ALEXANDER (*Member, Kunnattur taluk*) urged the need for the re-establishment of a Magistrate's Court at Kunnattur. The Kottarakara Magistrate's Court within whose jurisdiction Kunnattur was placed was 25 miles away from certain portions of Kunnattur taluk and consequently the poor people suffered untold suffering. When there was a Magistrate's court at Kunnattur, the number of cases filed was sufficiently heavy and did not justify its abolition. On account of the difficulties in collecting evidence and the distance of the court, the police were rather slack in taking the necessary steps on a complaint. Further, the Government did not also get their revenue from the fines to an extent of Rs. 1,400 annually. That the people rather subjected themselves to the criminal acts than seek redress in a court situated so far away and so difficult of access could be seen by a comparison of the number of cases on the file of the Magistrate's court at Kunnattur before it was abolished and the number filed in the Kottarakara Magistrate's court from Kunnattur taluk. The distance of the Magistrate s court was a source of difficulty and loss to the Forest Department as well. Circular No. 1 of 1898 of the High Court fixing the period for the disposal of suits further embarassed the people of Kunnattur taluk who had not even convenient means of communication with Kottarakara. Kunnattur was not far behind many other taluks in point of the revenue it yielded. On the whole, it contributed to the coffers of the State not less than one and a quarter lakhs of rupees annually. It was further harassed by tolls. With all that, the people of the taluk did not get their due shafe of benefit at the hands

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